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JUL 19 2006

REMARKS**I. INTRODUCTION**

The abstract has been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 19-33 remain pending in the present application. In view of the above amendment and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable.

II. THE MPEP §608.01 (b) OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner objected to the abstract because it exceeded 150 words. (Office Action 4/27/06 Office Action, p.2, ¶.2). Applicants have amended the abstract, and as such it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

III. THE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner rejected each of the pending claims under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting. The applicants, through their attorneys, have filed a terminal disclaimer disclaiming any patent term beyond that of U.S. Patent 6,678,885. Accordingly, based on the terminal disclaimer, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the double patenting rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2006

By: 

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shortened by any terminal disclaimer, in the event that it later: expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321, has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate, is reissued, or is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: July 19, 2006

By: 

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☒ Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) included.

☒ PTO suggested wording for terminal disclaimer was

☒ unchanged,

☐ changed (if changed, an explanation should be supplied).